HOPKINTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL
DECEMBER 10, 2009
FINAL MINUTES

Present: Patrice Gerseny, Chair; David Lancaster; Danny Coen; David Luneau, School Board; Tom O'Donnell, HVP; George Langwasser, Selectmen

Absent: Marion Paxton; Karen Irwin; Cameron Ford

Invited Guest: Neal Cass, Town Administrator

Meeting began at 6:30pm.

Minutes of 12.02.09
After reviewing the minutes, David Luneau moved to accept the minutes as amended. David Lancaster seconded. A vote was taken.
> **Yes   6   No   0**
> **Minutes accepted as amended.**

Town – George Langwasser presented.
Library – The overall budget is down. There is a substantial drop in fuel costs due to a lower price and conservation measures taken.
> David Luneau asked if there were any changes in services. Holly Gagnon, Library Trustee, said the Children's Librarian hours have been increased an additional 4 hours to reflect the actual time she puts in.

Human Services – The overall budget is up. Computer services were added to the budget this year. After review and discussion, David Luneau suggested adding a line for welfare paid back without a lien and a line for welfare liens. Neal Cass will get the figures.
Human Services Vendors – The budget is level funded. David Lancaster asked if the amount requested was sufficient. Marilyn Ceriello-Bresaw responded by saying that she has a reserve account to draw on if needed.
Police – The overall budget is down. There was no representative present. The committee was told that the Chief will officially retire in 2010. When the Chief retires: a) if there is a promotion from within, the current Lieutenant position will be downgraded to Patrolman or b) if a Chief is hired from outside, the Lieutenant position remains and there will be no new patrolman position. Chair Gerseny pointed out that funding for the personnel was incorporated into the operating budget rather than as a warrant article.
Emergency Management – Lt. Pecora is the coordinator. His salary is absorbed by the Police Dept. The committee questioned monies identified as Pandemic. Neal Cass, Town Administrator will research.
Animal Control – The budget is level funded. Any veterinary bills are covered by a Trust Fund.
Ambulance – The overall budget is up. Danny Coen is concerned there is no contract with Webster or Warner to cover the ambulance services they receive from Hopkinton. Mr. Langwasser advised that there had been a meeting with Warner a while ago and the Selectmen were waiting for another.
At this point Chair Gerseny questioned charges for fuel and diesel; each department had a different amount per gallon quoted. Neal Cass, Town Administrator, will have the amounts reworked.

Fire – The overall budget is down. There will be a warrant article to change from a Part time Chief to a Full time Chief. After careful review of 2009 and 2010 budgets, the committee has asked that 2009 be redone to reflect actual monies. Danny Coen expressed concern over the amount in the Capital Reserve account for the purchase of new fire equipment in the future.

Neal Cass will check into expenses charged to the Community Center.

Village Precincts
Hopkinton – Tom O'Donnell presented.
The committee was given a sample partial MS7. There were no warrant articles.
Chair Gerseny will officially request the precinct commissioners to provide a budget. The letters will go to: Charlie Head, Water Board – Chair and Craig Dunning, Precinct Chair.

School – David Luneau presented.
Mr. Luneau gave an overview of the school board meetings: 1) the operating budget; 2) collective bargaining agreements for HESS and HEA; 3) possible warrants: for vehicles; for health insurance; for middle school sports; for a generator.

Public Comment
None

Town – Financials are in line with November 30th.

DRA [Department of Revenue Administration] has approved holding the Public Hearing on February 3rd with a continuation February 9th. February 9th will be necessary only if the school receives petition warrants on February 4th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark
Secretary